Notice of Meeting of Action Committee :

Thursday, May 19, at 5 pm, in Visalia at the Radison Hotel, in a private meeting room, in the restaurant (Ask for "Mineral King District Association.") Dinner may be ordered from the menu.

Agenda :

Report of events since our meeting on Feb.10, including contacts with Congressmen; with officials at Sequoia and (S.F.) Regional Office of Park Service; and correspondence with Sierra Club, Congressmen, and Sequoia officials. Thanks to all of you who have helped!

Congressman Lehman and staff have made us welcome, have read our booklet, heard from National Park Headquarters, reached a conclusion, and reported back to us last week that eviction is inevitable unless the law is changed. They say that they " do not feel that corrective legislation is the best strategy at this time," and " the Chairman has a history of opposing those proposals." There seems to be a little willingness to watch, or help us pursue at least one " administrative avenue," (assuming that we accept eviction.) The Congressman' s staff person, Dan Webb, has been very professional and accessible.

Congressman Lehman has been invited to discuss our requests at the MKDA Annual meeting on August 6.

Although the Congressman seems to be aware of "some

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More Agenda :

administrative irregularities in Park Service handling of transfers of permits," so far, **we're still hoping for response to most of our other questions,** for instance, about inequity between in-holders and permittees; the taking of real property without compensation; the continuing disparity between the 1978 Congressional support for greater use of Mineral King and the subsequent (and current) plans by Sequoia Park officials for that area. We are still left to wonder if the Congress today, or at least those members on the key committee, agree with the Congress of '78, which proposed a standard of *increased* recreational use of the valley,and allowed for purchase of in-holdings such as Silver City . Or,does the present Congress agree with the Park Service: that in-holders, *just because there will be no federal money to purchase them,* are , therefore, privileged and included in present management plans as "compatible users?

We have received letters signed by two different "Acting Superintendents," one of which elaborates on reasons why "The Park Service" cannot remain neutral if an effort is made to remove the eviction clause. At about the same time, we were also informed by the Regional office that the "Park Service" would remain neutral during any legislative effort.

A (third) "Acting Superintendent," Scott Reusch (sp?) has been appointed to replace Superintendent Ritter, who chose to take the early retirement option which is being offered extensively throughout the Service. (A "down-sizing" of "the Service" is also underway, nationally.) Members of M.K.Action Committee have also met with Ritter. He was unaware of content of the letters we received from "Acting Superintendents." Jim is trying to make arrangements so that he and some of us could meet with the new Acting Superintendent on Friday, March 20,(day following our evening meeting.)

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Also on May 19 agenda: the April 24 correspondence from Chairman of Sierra Club, "..... *if there is no evidence* that your presence interferes with park purposes and needs, I think you can make a case of special equities (based on the transfer between agencies) and fair treatment among those similarly situated. As I have stated before, it was never our intent that you be driven from the park." (See December letter to the Chairman, here.)

We have also received copies of a letter to Congressman Lehman from Roger Kennedy, Director of National Park Service, in response to two inquiries from the Congressman.

Since the last meeting, there have been some additional suggestions for "goals to be obtained administratively" from the Park Service, with help from members of Congress if possible , in the event that legislation will not be introduced.

More details of these and other reports are scheduled for the dinner meeting.

II. Consideration of Issues and Discussion of the reports:

We'll welcome Dan Webb, staff person for Congressman Lehman, who will join the committee at 7: 30 for discussion of the reports since last meeting and formulation of our decisions for next steps.

Although western Congressmen are hard pressed to get back to their Districts on week-ends this spring, we have asked for a meeting on Friday or Saturday, May 20 or 21, with Congressman Lehman, if that can be arranged.....to follow up our decisions at the dinner meeting.

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More Agenda : III. Decisions

Among the several questions , suggestions,and decisions: **Further pursuit of legislation? Legal suit re taking of real property without compensation? (Class action, possibly with help of a "public interest firm?") Pursuit of "administrative" remedies which Park Service could grant,with friendly Congress persons facilitating our discussions and helping us ? At what level of Park Service: Sequoia Park level? / and or Regional ? and National ? If not now, *when*? *Which* specific proposals?**

Chuckle, for instance, but then *consider* seriously A) a remedy to the "inequity" issue and our present status as permittees: in which *ALL* Silver City *and* ***Mineral King cabins would become in-holdings*** *as a result of an agreement that* ***permittees would each pay $1*** *to federal govement to purchase and* ***own*** *the land we've occupied for most of the century. And think, also, about B) an amendment to '78 law,* ***postponing*** *eviction of permittees until, or unless federal government purchases Silver City.*

As we said, above, we're trying to arrange meetings Friday &/or Saturday, 20 or 21, with Congressman Lehman & the new Acting Superintendent of Sequoia. Before then, we may also arrange other appointments or follow-up meetings on Friday, at least.

<u>If you can save some time for (possible) work on those days, please do!</u>

Please return the response card if you plan to attend the May 19 dinner meeting. Thanks.

enclosures

cc: Dan Webb

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